

LONG BEACH- In an effort to ensure the environmental integrity of road improvement projects in California, Congresswoman Linda T. Sánchez presented \$480,000 to the city of Long Beach today. Sánchez secured the federal funds in the \$286 million federal transportation bill, TEA-LU, which was signed into law on August 10th. The bill primarily funds transportation projects such as more freeway lanes and road improvement projects. However, Congresswoman Linda Sánchez was able to secure funds for innovative environmental enhancements to local road improvement projects, one of which is in Long Beach. Congresswoman Sánchez was joined by Long Beach Mayor Beverly O'Neill, Long Beach City Councilman Val Lerch and officials from CalTrans, Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council and the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy to unveil the plans for the environmentally conscious road project.

"I am very pleased to have been able to secure funding for this environmentally sound road improvement project," said Congresswoman Sánchez. "This project is the first one of its kind in California. I hope that other localities catch onto this environmentally friendly method of road construction and retrofitting in urban areas to enhance our local environment," added Sánchez.

In particular, the Long Beach project will receive \$480,000 to improve Paramount Boulevard, which will include the installation of environmental features such as "bio-retention tree wells" that receive stormwater from the gutter and also naturally absorb and clean street water instead of allowing it to flow untreated into storm drains and to our local beaches and ocean.

"It is really the small forward thinking projects like this, that when added up, will really make an impact in saving our environment," concluded Sánchez.

Overall, Congresswoman Sánchez secured \$12.8 million in federal funding through TEA-LU for transportation projects in the 39th Congressional District.

Bioretention removes storm water pollutants through physical and biological processes, including adsorption, filtration, plant uptake, microbial activity, decomposition, sedimentation and volatilization. Bioretention areas can provide excellent pollutant removal and recharge for the "first flush" of stormwater runoff. Properly designed cells remove suspended solids, metals, and nutrients, and can infiltrate an inch or more of rainfall.